

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Tragedy.

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son is compelled by nature to assure to part with valuable relics collected by her during her residence at the White House. She is now living at the Hermitage, near Nashville, Tenn. She married the General's son Andrew, and was the constant companion and friend of the President.

A German Publisher in Leipzig announces a series of "American Humors" in ten volumes, embracing Mark Twain, T. B. Aldrich, Artemus Ward, and Max Adeler; another of "American Novelists," including Henry James, Jr., and Bret Harte, who is also honored with two volumes apart from either series.

School and Church.

Indiana has a school fund of \$8,799,191.

There are not less than 160 different denominations in the United States.

There is to be an effort made in the Kansas Legislature this winter to re-establish the Leavenworth State Normal School.

The Trustees of Maine State College are thinking of erecting machine-shops for instruction on the Russian plan, which has been adopted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Miss Fannie E. Townsley, a graduate of Wheaton College, has been working successfully as an evangelist the past three years in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. She is a Free Baptist.

The Southern Methodist Church has a conference composed exclusively of Germans. It has 14 local preachers, 1,212 members, and 21 Sunday-schools, with 1,069 scholars.

The Baptist Association of Massachusetts reports 287 churches in the State, 247 pastors, and 47,173 members. The number of baptisms during the past year was 1,968, and the amount of money contributed \$692,000.

Of the 27 Baptist churches in New York City, 23 have mortgage debts of from \$15,000 to \$75,000. One church was recently bought under a foreclosure sale for \$50,000, the mortgage, with interest, amounting to \$75,000.

The Boston University Women's Education Society, headed by Mrs. William Claflin, has just been organized to give young women, through loans and scholarships, the same opportunities for the highest education as young men. About \$40,000 are to be placed in the hands of the association.

Science and Industry.

Nearly 50,000 workmen are out of employment in New York City, and many of them are quite destitute.

Flour is cheaper on an average in Britain than in America, while beef and mutton, particularly the second qualities, are very much cheaper in the United States than in England.

The Cambria Iron Company, at Johnstown, Pa., have just purchased a smoke consumer, from the use of which they expect to save from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year in fuel.

The immense mast crop in all the Southern States has been equal to a half crop of corn in fattening hogs. The hog crop has been greatly increased on this account, and less pickled pork from the West will be required.

The purchasing agency of the Sovereigns of Industry, just opened in Boston, expects to concentrate a wholesale trade of fully \$2,500,000. The contributing councils in New England number about 30,000 members.

Seventeen cargoes of California wheat and flour were landed in Europe last month, aggregating 581,900 cents, worth \$921,500. For the next six months, at least, a cargo a day of California wheat will be landed at various European ports.

The prospects of Southern industries are improving. The rolling-mills of Tennessee and Georgia are running on double time, with orders ahead of their production; five new cotton-mills are being built in Georgia, one at Atlanta with 20,000 spindles, and every cotton-mill in the State paid 10 per cent. or more, last year. The Eagle and Phoenix factory of Columbus will, when their new mill is completed, run nearly 50,000 spindles and 10,000 looms, and will employ between 1,000 and 1,200 operatives.

Haps and Mishaps.

A boy 15 years old, son of H. P. Streeter, an old citizen of Topeka, Kan., was suddenly killed on the 11th, while coupling cars.

Emma Haberly, at Milwaukee was fatally burned on the 8th. Her clothes caught fire from an over-heated stove, and she ran out upon the street enveloped in flames.

Three young ladies, two Misses Campbell, a Miss Choate, and one man, James Gregory, were drowned in a millpond, 10 miles from Otseville, Ky., the other night, while going to a ball.

While a 13-year-old daughter of Louis Groesbeck was playing with a pistol in Hamtramck, Mich., she pointed it playfully at her right side, and said she would shoot herself. She did, and the wound will probably prove fatal.

Thomas Hays went to the woods, near Pella, Iowa, to hunt turkeys. In the woods were a couple of boys, also hunting turkeys. Discovering what they believed were some birds, they blazed away, and pretty severely peppered Mr. Hays. His injuries, fortunately, were not fatal.

William Zink, a boy employed in John C. Lowe's wood-engraving establishment, at Buffalo, N. Y., was shot through the head and killed by the discharge of a pistol in the hands of a companion, William H. Horner, who, not knowing the pistol was loaded, was illustrating what he had seen at the Academy of Music.

James Simpson, a farmer living in Ringgold County, Iowa, went out to hunt a few days ago, and when but a short distance from his house the report of his gun was heard, and the cry, "I'm shot!" The family went quickly to him, but he was dead, having been shot through the head. He was one of the most respected citizens of the county.

A few days since Mrs. Thomas Graham, living near Glenwood, Iowa, went to a neighbor's on an errand, and left two children in the house. Soon after she left the dress of the youngest took fire from the stove. The eldest, about five years old, with great presence of mind, quenched the fire, as she supposed, and started to call her mother. The sister followed, the air fanned the smothered fire to a flame, and before the mother reached her her clothes were burned off and her body crisped, causing death in few hours.

Foreign Notes.

One of the leading features of the Paris Exposition will be the great light-house, manufactured by Caill. It is to be 420 feet high, and after the exposition will be removed to Plymouth, England, for permanent erection.

The Princess Frederica has been the faithful companion of her father, ex-King George of Hanover, ever since he sought refuge with his ally, the Emperor of Austria. Tall, and of blonde hair and complexion, she is said to be unquestionably more beautiful than any other European princess.

The famous Charles Pittsfield estate in England is at last to be distributed among the heirs. The testator died in 1740, and the first decision was not reached by the courts till 1793. Originally amounting to \$80,000, the property, between the increased value of London real estate and compound interest, is now said to be worth nearly \$5,000,000, though there is probably some exaggeration here.

Mr. Henry Chaplin, man of wealth, member of Parliament, and owner of the horse Hermit, who won the Derby in 1867, was jilted almost at the church door by Lady Florence Paget, who ran away and married the Marquis of Hastings. Now Mr. Chaplin, at 36, has just been married to another Florence, 13 years younger than the first, and the eldest daughter of the Duke of Sutherland.

Ostrich farming is carried on with the best success at the Cape of Good Hope. Choice birds are worth \$350 each, and require very little care. Usually they are tolerably docile, but at the breeding season they become irritable, and will often attack a person who ventures too near them. Each bird yields from \$150 to \$200 worth of feathers per year. Those from the female are gray, and those from the male black, except a single white plume which grows under each wing, and which is the most valuable of all.

M. Vivier, the Frenchman who has made it the business of his life to worry the Custom-house Inspectors of all European countries, has returned to France. His wont formerly was to pack a huge trunk full of trouser straps, such as are worn with gaiters, using hydraulic pressure, if it were necessary, to cram five bushels into a three-bushel space; then to lure the Inspector to open it as a suspicious package, when naturally the contents were over-set, and the whole force of the Custom-house was occupied for hours in putting them back. A powerful Jack-in-the-box was another device of his that was very successful.

Odds and Ends.

[From the Burlington Hawk-eye.]

One of the members of the Indiana Legislature is named Flye. We expected he will make his mark in the House.

The question that agitates the American people is not who is elected, but, is Prof. Tice a silent partner in a coal-yard?

A new kind of non-explosive kerosene oil has just been brought out, and the owners of the republic are just kept busy running after fragmentary grocers who, following the instructions on the circulars, thrust red hot wires into it to show the customer how absolutely safe it is.

Now, be careful. And if the worst comes to the worst, we don't want any of the friends and relations of the corpse to say there wasn't fair and ample warning. There was a heavy snow storm yesterday, and we know the temptation is great, but if any misguided man brings to this office, with a request of publication, one certain poem, entitled "Beautiful Snow," there will be such a call for troops in Iowa to punish a high-handed ku-klux outrage as hasn't been known since the "Automatic Welcome" shot the lightning rod man into the moon. You hear our bugle.

—Young Mr. Gadsler has only been

married a week, and yesterday his wife sent him out to do the marketing. It was Mr. Gadsler's first experience, and he put on an expression of the most profound wisdom over every thing he bought. He got a roast of beef bigger than the one the steward of the Barret House had just bought, he ordered a bushel of onions for dinner, and got two dollars' worth of salt, and finally he wanted a gallon of vinegar. The grocer had some prime cider vinegar, he said. Mr. Gadsler looked at him very knowingly, and said he would just taste it. The grocer handed him a pint measure with some in. Mr. Gadsler tasted, screwed up his face, and handed back the measure, while he regarded the grocer with a look of lofty disdain. "You can't play such stuff as that on me," he said, "it's soured." The grocer humbly apologized, and said the thunder must have done it.

The Diamond.

When the diamond is rubbed it becomes positively electrical, even before being cut, in which it differs from all other gems. When, after exposure to direct sunlight, it is suddenly placed in darkness, it shows phosphorescence, and the evolution of light continues for some time. It is not acted upon by any acid or alkali. But it may be consumed and completely oxidized to carbonic acid at a high heat in the atmosphere. It is so difficult to burn that the ordinary blow pipe flame has no effect upon it. It may be heated to whiteness in a closed crucible without change, but it begins to burn in a muffle at the melting point of silver. At a high heat with nitrate of potash it is rapidly decomposed.

Miners are generally not familiar with the appearance of diamonds in the rough state, and would most likely mistake them, if found, for chalcodony or some similar mineral. In its crystal form it would be to them a crystal only interesting for the moment, to be soon thrown aside as useless. I have heard of a case where a beautiful crystal, supposed to be a diamond, being found in some placer mine in California, was put to the following test: It was placed on an anvil and struck a heavy blow with a sledge hammer, it being assumed that the diamond, being the hardest of known substances, could not be broken. The idea is more ancient than is generally supposed. The statement has been made by Pliny, but it is doubtful if he ever made the experiment himself. In speaking of a diamond, he says that it can not be crushed, but would split the hammers and anvils in the attempt. It is certain that this is a mistake. The diamond can be split on the edge of a knife, and even a light blow with a hammer might destroy the most costly gem.

The diamond is supposed to be of vegetable origin, and is believed, by those who have studied it carefully, to be produced by slow decomposition of vegetable or bituminous matters. [One large diamond having a black spot in it was cut in two, and the defect was found to be vegetable mud enclosed in the crystal.]

It requires practice to judge of the diamond in its rough state. A rough diamond of the first water would be hardly recognized by the uneducated eye as a valuable gem. In describing the diamond many of its characteristics are visible only in its cut state. Half the stone is sometimes cut away before a perfect gem can be produced. The diamond washers of Brazil rub the stones together and produce a peculiar grating sound, from which they assume to judge of their value.

There is a peculiar appearance about a rough diamond which can hardly be described. I question if any written description would convey to the reader a correct idea of what they are exactly like. It is easy to say that they possess a peculiar luster, like spermaceti, but who would feel certain of the identity of a diamond from such a description? Once seen, this peculiar lustre becomes impressed on the mind. To educate the eye, models of rough diamonds are made at Amsterdam for the use of prospectors, and they are found extremely useful.

Newton first suggested the probability of the diamond being combustible. He was led to this opinion by observing its power of refracting light so strongly. It was in 1675 that he advanced this theory. In 1694 the members of the Academy of Florence succeeded, by means of powerful lenses, in consuming diamonds. Lavoisier and others proved that the diamond was not evaporated, as supposed by the academicians, but was actually burned. Lavoisier found by his experiment that if air was excluded no decomposition took place. He burned diamonds in close vessels with powerful burning-glasses, and found that carbonic acid was produced, and discovered and announced the striking similarity between their nature and that of charcoal.—*New York School Journal.*

The Terrible Crime of a Baffled husband.

An awful tragedy transpired a few days ago near Columbiana, Ala. It appears that a man by the name of Thomas Fallon had a difficulty with his wife, and in consequence of it they separated. The wife then went to the house of Mrs. Thomas Nelson, who is her mother. Fallon went to Mrs. Nelson's and sought an interview with his wife, which was refused. He called again and was not permitted to see her, whereupon he attempted to shoot his wife's mother, Mrs. Nelson, but was thwarted in his purpose. He then deliberately shot his wife, who expired in about two hours. As a fitting termination of this tragedy, he shot himself and died instantly.—*Memphis Appeal.*

The other day an intelligent compositor shied a lath out of the *Hawk-eye* news-room window, neatly impinging it against the waist-band of a respectable citizen and doubling him up with neatness and dispatch. And when the respectable citizen came groaning and limping up stairs to file his complaint, the editor calmly and soothingly assured him that it was only a typographical error.

THE TOMB OF AGAMEMNON.

Importance of the Recent Discoveries of Dr. Schliemann.—The Baffled City of Mycenae.—A Wealth of Antique Jewelry.

[From the New York Herald.]

In the great circle of parallel slabs beneath the archaic sepulchral stones, which Dr. Schliemann has shown to be the tomb of Agamemnon and his companions, he has discovered immense tombs containing jewelry. He found in one portion of a tomb human bones, male and female, plate, jewelry of pure archaic gold weighing five kilograms, two scepters with heads of crystal, and chased objects in silver and bronze, and a great quantity of women's jewelry in gold, handsomely worked. Immediately after commencing excavations at an adjoining tomb a large head of a cow in silver, with immense horns of pure gold, was found. A large girdle of gold, five golden vases and immense golden buttons were also found. All these objects were marvelously worked. Among other discoveries are nine silver vessels and numerous swords of bronze, but no trace of ironwork. The following articles of pure gold and splendid ornamentation were also found: A helmet, two diadems, a woman's large comb, a large breastplate, three masks, six vases, two bracelets, two rings, three brooches, an immense mass of buttons, leaves and other articles, three large girdles, a silver vase, a stag cast in lead, with a mass of swords, daggers, axes and warriors' knives, all of bronze, with twenty-five flint-headed arrows.

A VISIT TO MYCENAE.

We arrived at half-past 12, noon, at the dirty and miserable village of Charvati, which occupies part of the site of the ancient city of Mycenae, once the capital of Agamemnon, and renowned for its immense wealth. My guides and the two soldiers had traveled on foot the whole way from Corinth, and were so fatigued as not to be able to follow me to the Acropolis, which was about two miles from Charvati. I allowed them to rest in the village until my return, the more willingly as we had passed the mountains, and I had no more to fear from brigands. Besides they knew nothing of Mycenae, not even the name, and had no notion of the heroes to whom that city is indebted for its glory; consequently they could not have been of the least use to me, either to point out the monuments or to stimulate my enthusiasm for archaeology. I took with me, then, only a boy from the village, who knew the citadel by the name of "the fort of Agamemnon," and the great treasury by that of "Agamemnon's tomb."

The celebrity of Mycenae belongs only to the heroic age, for the city lost its importance after the return of the Heracleidae and the occupation of Argos by the Dorians, but it retained its independence and supported the national cause against the Persians; 80 Mycenians fought and died with the little band of Spartans at Thermopylae, and 400 Mycenians and Tyrrhenians took a share in the battle of Plataea. The Argives, who remained neutral, envied the honor which the Mycenians had acquired by their part in these battles, and, besides, feared lest, seeing the ancient glory of their city, the Mycenians would recover the hegemony of the Argolide; for these reasons they laid siege to Mycenae, took it and destroyed it in 466 B. C.

When Thucydides visited the city, after the lapse of a century, he found it in ruins. Strabo says: "Mycenae no longer exists to-day," but he does not appear to have ever been there himself, for surely if he had he would have made mention of its ruins and its citadel. When Pausanias visited Mycenae, nearly five centuries and a half after Thucydides, he saw a part of its fortress, the gate with the two lions, the treasures of Atreus and his son, the tombs of Atreus, those of the companions of Agamemnon, assassinated by Egisthus; those of Cassandra, of Agamemnon, of the charioteer, Eurymedon; of the son of Cassandra, of Electra, of Egisthus and of Clytemnestra.

As these last tombs were a "short distance outside the walls, for they (Egisthus and Clytemnestra) were considered unworthy of being interred in the interior, where Agamemnon rested, together with those assassinated with him," we are obliged to conclude that Pausanias saw all the mausoleums in the Acropolis itself, and that those of Egisthus and Clytemnestra were without the inclosure of the citadel. There now remains no vestige of any of these funeral monuments, but there can be no doubt but that they would be found again if excavations were made. On the other hand, the Acropolis is well preserved; and, in any case, it is even to this day in much better condition than one would presume to hope for, after the expression of Pausanias: "Meanwhile there are still some remains of the citadel, and, among others, the gate above that of the lions." In fact, all the walls of the *enceinte* of the citadel still exist; they have a thickness of from 16 to 23 feet in many places, and a height according to the nature of the ground of from 16 to 30 feet. In several places these walls are built of immense blocks of stone, irregular in shape, and having between them spaces filled up with smaller ones. But the greater part is built of polygonal stones hewn artistically, so as to fit together; the extremities being perfectly jointed for the purpose of giving a smooth appearance to the masonry. In some places, and notably in the neighborhood of the great gate, there is a third kind of wall, which is formed of almost quadrangular stones of from 5 to 15 feet long by 3 to 5 feet high and 3 to 6 in thickness.

APPEARANCE OF THE CITADEL.

The citadel is about 1,100 feet long and forms an irregular triangle; it is situated on a small but steep hill, between two water-courses, and at the foot of two mountains of about 1,600 feet high each. Within the ground rises from all sides towards the center in the form of terraces, supported equally on all sides by the Cyclopean walls. I found there three cisterns and I descended into the largest, but got out in a hurry, as it was full of poisonous serpents. The great gate, of which I have already spoken, is situated on the northwest side, at the right extrem-

ity, where the neighboring walls meet. The way up to this is by a passage about 45 feet long and 30 wide, formed by this wall and another parallel one on the outside, which seems to have had no other purpose than the defense of this passage. This same door is about 10 feet high and 9 wide. It is formed of two stones set on end, each 8 feet wide and 6 deep; across the top is a third 15 feet long and 4 deep. On this last stone, which in its middle is 6 feet high, and which diminishes towards the two ends, a triangular stone is placed, measuring 12 feet long, 9 high and 14 deep. On this two lions are carved in low relief, standing on their hind paws and resting on a circular altar, which is placed between them. The altar is surmounted with a column, having a capital formed of four circles enclosed in parallel chaplets. According to Muller this column is the common symbol of Apollo Aggeus, the protector of portals.

The bas-reliefs of the lions are executed with great grace and finish, and as they are the sole remains of the plastic art of the heroic age of Greece, they are of immense interest to archaeology. In the lintel and threshold of the great gate there can be plainly seen the marks of bolts and hinges and in the great stones of the pavement the ruins of chariot wheels. There is a postern gate on the northeast side, seven feet high and four wide; it also is formed of three stones, but is unsculptured. The whole surface of the ground in the citadel is covered with tiles and pieces of pottery, and, as I had an opportunity of remarking in the case of a ditch which a peasant dug, debris of this kind was found even to a depth of eighteen feet. Therefore there can be no doubt of the fact that anciently all the Acropolis was inhabited, and from its imposing and extensive position we must conclude that it contained the palace of the family of Atreus.

AGAMEMNON'S TOMB.

I then turned to the treasury of Agamemnon, commonly called the "Tomb of Agamemnon," which lies about three-quarters of a mile from the citadel. It is dug in the side of a little hill, facing a deep ravine. A passage, 147 feet long and about 30 wide, formed of two parallel walls, each 30 feet high and built of hewn stones of about 3 feet by 2, leads to the grand entrance, which is 18 feet high, and, at the top, 6 wide, but its width gradually increases, and it is 9 feet at the base. This gate is covered with one block of beautifully hewn stone, 27 feet long and 4 high, above which there is a triangular opening of 12 feet high and the same width at the base. Curiosity having made me climb this gate I found in the triangular opening some traces which convinced me that statues or little columns were placed there. There was formerly on each side of the great gate a column with base and capital, and enriched with elegant sculptured ornaments, which, according to Leake, had no resemblance to any other sculptures of ancient Greece, but which approached the style of carvings at Persepolis. In the great entry the marks of the bolts and hinges of the doors are visible, and on the same line with these marks a series of little round holes of about an inch and a half diameter and half an inch deep, and at the bottoms of these two little holes which evidently held nails of bronze. The treasury contains two chambers, the first of which is shaped like a cone, of 50 feet diameter and about the same height. It communicates by a door with an interior chamber of quadrangular shape, which is only twenty-one feet in length and width, and is roughly dug into the rock.

A VIEW OF THE INSIDE.

This last was entirely dark, and, unfortunately, I had brought no matches with me. I told the boy who had come with me from Charvati to go and get some, but he assured me there was not such a thing in the village. Being convinced that even in the houses of the Peloponnesus there must be some matches, I told him I would give him a half drachma (eight cents) for three matches. The boy stood stupefied and agitated at such liberality, but could not bring himself to believe it at first. Three times over he asked me if I would truly give him "fifty lepta" if he would seek some matches; twice I gave him a simple affirmative answer, but the third time I swore on the ashes of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. Scarce had I ejaculated this oath than the youngster made off at full speed toward Charvati, though more than a mile distant from the treasury of Agamemnon, and came back in hot haste with a bundle of brambles in one hand and ten matches in the other. I asked him why he had brought three times the number of matches I had told him to. First he gave me evasive answers; but being pressed on the point, at last admitted that he was afraid that some of the matches would be bad, and that he had brought ten instead of three in order to guarantee himself against all chances and to carry off the promised recompense when he arrived. He soon kindled a fire in the chamber, making light enough to spare the thousands of bats which had established their dwellings there, and which made a loud noise in their endeavor to escape. But, blinded by the brightness of the blaze, they failed to find the door, and flew restlessly from side to side of the room, annoying us much, flying in our faces and hanging on our clothes. The great hall of the tomb is built of hewn stone of from 13 to 30 inches long and 11 to 25 thick, laid on each other without cement. In each of these stones there are two little holes containing the remains of bronze nails, which have been set in there, and, even yet, some entire bronze nails may be seen in the upper stones of this dome. The nails can only have served to support a lining which extended over the whole interior of the edifice, for, while we might admit that those below, say to a height of twelve feet, served to suspend arms and other objects, it is utterly out of the question that those which we see in the stones at the top of the dome could have been employed for the same purpose. Besides the construction of this edifice shows, even in the smallest details, a wonderful care and art. After having defied the ravages of time

for thirty-one centuries, it is a state of preservation as though it were just built, therefore but little reason is to be ascribed to its ruin. It was adorned in a most splendid manner. So, I am perfectly sure, the whole interior of the great hall with polished plates of brass. I believe this to be seen in several ancient authors. Greeks had, at a very early date, their houses in for we can in no other way brzen houses and chan the ancient poets and his

FOUR MONTHS FOR

St. NICHOLAS FOR JAN cheery greeting on the corlly beautiful frontispiece variety in its pages, and FUN FOR THE NI Will charm everybody be Among the more notal found a "Letter to a Y. by William Howitt, the Stars for January," by astronomer.

ST. NICHOLAS FOR Will also contain a paper Scudder, "Great Grand Pictures," with fac-sim from the "New England ster's old "Spelling-B Visit to the Centennial, "Helen's Babies," and Medieval Ballad of Ma houette drawings by Hoj amusing and entertaini

"ITS OWN MASTER." There are shorter Sto Rhymes and Nonsense Sketches, a Fairy Tale, Pages for Very Little F short, this is the New Y that magazine of which t News said: "We wish u its equal in our own I ture."

Send one dollar for a ti beginning with the N, and including the sp Holiday number, with Bryant's "Boys of My the New Year's number Howitt's "Letter to a Yot and the February numb have

"A TALK WITH AMER by Tom Hughes, that strong-hearted Englishman all over the world as "the school-boy."

Subscriptions received i sellers. Sold by all newsd a year, 25 cents a number.

SCRIBNER,

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Fashions in Station

The present styles in stat low English models. The p envelopes are thick and sub preference to flimsy thin papers ornamentation is used, it is very and the formula of invitations is English, instead of wordy protest interlarded with French phrases. C white and grayish tints just off i are preferred to chalk white or i tinted papers. The shapes are lad letter and note. They open in the o fashioned way, as the leaves of a book. The fancy for purple and blue inks has passed away, and black is used again. The caprice now is for imitating the large and angular writing of English women, and this, it is said, is taught in fashionable boarding-schools. A simple and artistic monogram, or else a single initial, is placed in the left-hand corner at the top of the page. The newest monograms are in blended colors, such as silver, gold, or bronze, illuminated with cardinal or dark Pompeian red, or Seville blue, or perhaps violet. The quaint Japanese monogram is narrow and at least two inches long, and looks well in gold with scarlet, silver with blue, or bronze with crimson. Still another design is a band half an inch wide, placed diagonally in the left-hand corner, and on it is the name of the writer in Japanese characters. There are cardinal bands with the Japanese characters in black, or gold, or silver, very quaint and pretty, but suggestive of fire-cracker packages and tea-traddies. Violet or silver bands with letters of the same color but of different shade are in good taste. Some young ladies have their first name in violet or scarlet fac-simile of their own hand-writing, obliquely near the top. Another ornament is a cluster of small flowers—mignonette, violet, or myosotis—done in colors, tied with a gold ribbon on which the name is inscribed. These look like water-colors painted by hand, but they are done by presses. In the right corner the address is sometimes used, giving the number and street of city homes or the name of the country seat. Only the initial, or monogram, or the family crest, is used on the envelope. Ladies in mourning use thick English paper tinted dark gray and bordered with black.—*New York Tribune.*

Dirt as Medicine.

Some very remarkable properties have been discovered in the earths of New Jersey. It seems to be an infallible cure for chronic diseases, for rheumatism, wounds, bruises and corrupting sores. The application is very simple. The earth is bound on to the limb, and changed once a day. Some very extraordinary cures have been performed, and people carry off quantities of the earth and apply it at home. It can be found not only by the acre, but by the mile. It is as good for animals as it is for man. A farmer had a hog that was fearfully lacerated. Inflammation set in and the hog was turned out to die. He crawled to a hollow filled with swash. He laid himself down and continued to wallow. In three days the inflammation was gone. The animal began to eat, and in less than a week was perfectly cured. Whether the medical properties are chemical or mineral no one can tell as yet. The farm on which this remarkable earth is found is owned by a New York merchant. His friends already distinguish him as the Mud Doctor.

At the recent meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Hymn Book Committee, the hymn book was gone over, and the question of the retention of each hymn voted upon. A rule was adopted requiring the votes of two-thirds of the committee to reject any hymn of the old collection.